

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Inventory Number: ~~2008~~ CH-984

Address: 8870 Fairground Road, Charles County - in the vicinity of Bel Alton

Owner: Frere, Charles R and Charlotte S

Tax Parcel Number: 84 Tax Map Number: 55

Project MD 301 Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility **not** recommended ☒

Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☒ None

Is property located within a historic district?: ☒ no ☐ yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed?: ☒ no ☐ yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

8870 Fairground Road is a one-and-one-half-story, Tudor Revival-style, brick house. The house is covered by a cross gable roof. The house is three-bays wide with a one-story, screened side porch. The porch, located on the southeast elevation, has a side gable roof. The central entrance occupies a projecting bay. The projecting bay, flanked by paired windows with rowlock-coursed sills, is covered by a front gable roof that extends from the primary roof. The door opening is edged with rough-cut stone. A decorative water table, constructed of a basket weave pattern, caps the base of the building.

The county seat for the government of Charles County is located in La Plata and the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad La Plata Station is located along Charles Street. Robert Crain Highway was completed in 1927 and it provided the most direct way to Baltimore and points north of Charles County. Crain Highway, now known as US 301, was transformed from a local road into a bypass for traffic traveling between Florida and New York with the introduction of the Harry W. Nice Bridge in 1940. Washington Avenue intersects Charles Street in the center of downtown La Plata and it is a major north-south access road for the county seat.

Prepared by EHT Traceries, Inc.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Consideration ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☒ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

11/3/98  
Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

The population of Charles County in the middle of the 20th century numbered less than 25,000 people and the economy was based upon agricultural production, especially tobacco. Charles County was one of the largest producers of tobacco in the State of Maryland. Although Charles County was still primarily rural, by the 1930's, La Plata began to grow significantly because of the development of Crain Highway. Non-agricultural business began to increase around La Plata and the county seat's position within Charles County became economically more diverse. Development, including housing, increased as a result of Crain Highway and the influx of new businesses and investment into the area.

Constructed circa 1930, this Tudor Revival-style house is not eligible for the National Register. Although it is typical of the residential development in southern Charles County, this resource lacks significance related to events, persons or architecture. Criterion D, information potential, was not assessed for this study.



POPE'S CREEK QUAD

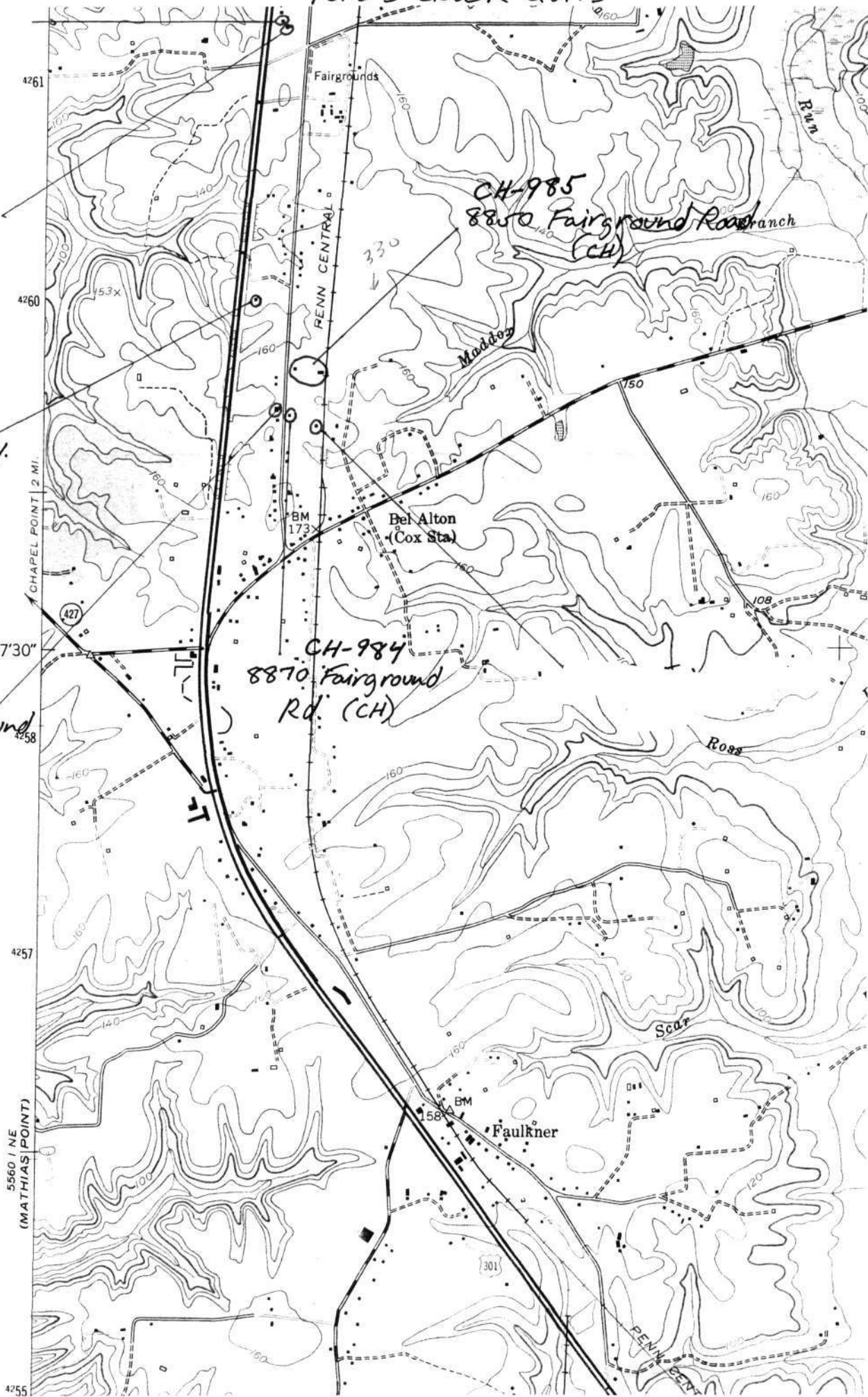
CH-1000  
8280 Crain  
Hwy. (CH)

CH-985  
8850 Fairground Road  
(CH)

CH-987  
8600 Crain Hwy.  
(CH)

CH-986  
8905 Fairground  
Rd. (CH)

CH-984  
8870 Fairground  
Rd. (CH)







~~#0055~~ CH-984

8870 Fairground Road

Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

View looking northeast

1 of 1